

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15
ICA-11 IO-13 HA-05 PC-01 AID-05 OMB-01 TRSE-00
EB-08 COME-00 /109 W
-----045924 252144Z /45

R 250858Z JUL 78
FM AMEMBASSY ACCRA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4732
INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN
AMEMBASSY LAGOS
AMEMBASSY LOME
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU
AMEMBASSY PARIS

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PGOV GH
SUBJ: GOVERNMENT CONTINUES SHAKE-UP OF TOP GOVERNMENTAL
PERSONNEL

REF: ACCRA 5784

1. SUMMARY: FOR THE FIRST TIME, GOVERNMENT PUBLICLY USES
THE PHRASE "BACK TO THE BARRACKS", RECALLS SEVERAL MILITARY
OFFICERS IN CIVILIAN JOBS AND RESHUFFLES A HOST OF CIVILIAN
BUREAUCRATS LEFT OVER FROM THE ACHEAMPONG REGIME.

2. UNDER THE HEADLINE "BACK TO THE BARRACKS", THE GOVERNMENT
PRESS FOR JULY 22 ANNOUNCED THE LATEST IN AN ONGOING SERIES
OF DISMISSALS AND RESHUFFLING APPARENTLY DESIGNED TO
ELIMINATE THE MORE INEFFICIENT OFFICIALS OF THE FORMER
REGIME AND PROMOTE THE BEST AND BRIGHTEST OF AVAILABLE
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YOUNG MANAGERS. AN OFFICIAL ANNOUNCEMENT STATED THAT THE
SMC HAS DRAWN UP A PROGRAM FOR WITHDRAWING MILITARY
PERSONNEL FROM CIVILIAN ORGANIZATIONS AND SENDING THEM
"BACK TO THE BARRACKS" IN LINE WITH ITS "DECLARED POLICY
TO RETURN THE COUNTRY TO CIVILIAN RULE ON JULY 1, 1979"
(THIS DESPITE ITS RECENT REPLACING OF THE CIVILIAN
COMMISSIONER FOR FINANCE BY AN ARMY COLONEL). THE FIRST

TWO TO BE RECALLED UNDER THIS NEW POLICY ARE COMMANDER J.C. ADDO, CHIEF EXECUTIVE OF COCOA MARKETING BOARD (CMB), AND MAJOR S.B. GYASI, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF ITS PRODUCE BUYING DIVISION. THE NEW CHIEF EXECUTIVE OF THE CMB IS KWAME PIANIM, A YALE-TRAINED ECONOMIST NOW A PRIVATE CONSULTANT WHILE MR. W.R. KORANTENG, PRESENTLY MANAGING DIRECTOR OF COCOA MARKETING COMPANY AND WELL-RESPECTED THROUGHOUT THE GOG FOR HIS HONEST AND MANAGERIAL ABILITIES, IS PROMOTED TO BE FIRST DEPUTY CHIEF EXECUTIVE OF CMB.

3. TWENTY-NINE SENIOR CIVIL SERVANTS HAVE ALSO BEEN REASSIGNED IN A MOVE WIDELY TAKEN HERE AS PART OF NEW GOVERNMENT'S DETERMINATION TO PUT MORE COMPETENT OFFICIALS IN KEY POSITIONS OF AUTHORITY. IN ADDITION, SEVERAL INVESTIGATIONS HAVE BEEN LAUNCHED INTO PERSONAL PROFITEERING BY GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS; ONE HAS ALREADY PRODUCED DISMISSAL OF SEVEN TOP OFFICIALS AT GHANA PUBLISHING CORPORATION FOR GENERAL MALPRACTICES AND BRIBERY.

4. NEW GOVERNMENT HAS INSTITUTED "THINK TANK" DIRECTLY UNDER SMC TO RECEIVE IDEAS, SUGGESTIONS AND PROPOSALS FROM GENERAL PUBLIC ON ANY ASPECT OF POLICY OR IMPLEMENTATION BY THE GOG. PLAN BILLED AS A "MAJOR STEP" IN IMPLEMENTING THE NEW GOVERNMENT'S "RESPECT FOR PUBLIC OPINION AND IDEAS."

5. COMMENT: AKUFFO CONTINUES MAJOR HOUSECLEANING EFFORT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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DESIGNED TO DEVELOP PUBLIC SUPPORT FOR HIS POLICIES AND TO ANSWER YOUNG OFFICERS IN THE MILITARY ADVISORY COUNCIL WHO INSIST THE MILITARY MUST GET OUT OF GOVERNMENT BUREAUCRACY. THESE STEPS WELCOMED BY SOME PROFESSIONALS AS POSITIVE AND NECESSARY PREREQUISITES TO REESTABLISHING SOME MEASURE OF PUBLIC CONFIDENCE IN GOVERNMENT WHICH WAS SO SADLY LACKING UNDER ACHEAMPONG.
HOLMES

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: GOVERNMENT PERSONNEL, REORGANIZATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 25 jul 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978ACCRA05970
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780305-0643
Format: TEL
From: ACCRA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780721/aaaaarnb.tel
Line Count: 102
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 3c08e76c-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 ACCRA 5784
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 27 apr 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1889691
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: GOVERNMENT CONTINUES SHAKE-UP OF TOP GOVERNMENTAL PERSONNEL
TAGS: PGOV, GH
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/3c08e76c-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014